



# President's Message

I don't have to tell any of you that our nation is suffering through a difficult time – and the legal profession has not been immune from the pinch being felt by all Americans. Some of our newest members are having difficulty finding that first job, while even experienced practitioners have been affected by law firm downsizing or shifting practice areas. In addition, the newly-released *2011 Missouri Bar Economic Survey* indicates a decrease in private practice income of 15 percent – the first time that has happened since the survey began in 1958.

Even those who have managed to dodge a direct blow from our sluggish economy see its daily impact on our friends, neighbors, and clients.

During a time when all of us are trying to make our way through the greatest economic challenge since the Great Depression, it is good to know that we have a steady resource of tools, services and programs available to help us. I am talking, of course, about your Missouri Bar.

The Missouri Bar offers programs, materials and services to help lawyers with virtually any professional or personal need. Tips on building a practice, cutting edge legal education programming, assistance for lawyers struggling with personal or substance abuse problems, helping teachers educate their students about the justice system, the development of legislative items designed to improve the law for all Missourians – these are just a few of the things The Missouri Bar does on a regular basis.

Your Missouri Bar has utilized technology to make its services even more accessible to members through listservs, electronic versions of publications, the weekly *ESQ* electronic newsletter and, most recently, an enhanced presence on popular social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Likewise, The Missouri Bar's website ([www.mobar.org](http://www.mobar.org)) has also recently been revamped to make it an even more valuable resource that is available to members 24 hours a day.

Key to a balance between service and fiscal responsibility is The Missouri Bar's commitment to practices and management that maximize the value of every dues dollar. Teamwork, careful planning and day-to-day attention to the bottom line make The Missouri Bar one of the most efficient bar organizations in the nation. Yet, your state bar continues to be a national leader in terms of services provided to both members and the public. I dare say that The Missouri Bar remains one of the great values available to those of us fortunate enough to be a member of this great profession.

But don't just take my word for it. Take a few moments and read through this overview of The Missouri Bar's activities. I believe you will be impressed by both the quality and quantity of the resources available to our members and the people of Missouri.

Of course, all of the officers of The Missouri Bar, as well as the members of the Board of Governors, exist to serve you. Our doors are always open to you, so don't hesitate to let any of us know how we can make The Missouri Bar even more useful to you.

Sincerely,

Lynn Whaley Vogel  
President

